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Response to Office Action Mailed 6/11/09

Examiner: Peter Choi

Art Unit: 3623

Title: Object Based Workflow Route

Application Number: 10/036,200

Confirmation Number 2842

Inventor: Norman Ken Ouchi

Date: August 10, 2009

DO NOT ENTER: /P.C./ (09/05/2009)

Summary

This action is Final

Claims 21-39 are pending.

Claims 21-39 are rejected.

Claims Rejection

Claims 21-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101.

Claims 21-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims 21-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Du et al (US Patent 5,826,237) in view of Kim (US 2002/0065701)

Discussion

There appears to be fundamental issues in the understanding of the prior art and the description in the specification of the present invention in the mind of the Examiner that the inventor hopes can clarify.

The present invention applies to computer controlled manufacturing processes where two independent, route directed workflow systems cooperate to manufacture products as described in [0007]-[0010]. A first workflow system, ERP, controls and tracks the manufacture of a number of units with a first route with the key manufacturing steps. The first route executes once as the number of units are manufactured starting with the first unit and completing with the last unit. A second workflow system, shopfloor, controls and tracks the manufacture of the number of units with a second route with every manufacturing step including repair steps that include repair feedback paths to steps earlier in the route. The second route executes for each unit manufactured to control and track each individual unit [0005]. For example, if 100 units are manufactured, the first route executes once for the group of 100 and the second route executes 100 times, once for each unit in the group. The two workflow systems execute independent of one another except for the start and completion.

The present invention discloses the functions of a program that takes a first route as input and generates the second route (or provided a second route as input generates the first route). The present invention also teaches synchronizing functions for the second workflow to notify the first workflow.

Du teaches a first workflow with a first route step that calls a second workflow to execute a second route on behalf of the first route step, similar to a subroutine call in a program. Figure 7 and the discussion on col 11 line 51 to col 12 line 5 describe these functions. With Du, as with a

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